SWEDISH FIRM HOPES TO REDUCE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS ON LITHUANIAN STREETS

VILNIUS, Aug 02, BNS - Improper traffic control is one of the reasons why the number of motor vehicle accidents is so high in Vilnius and Kaunas, say experts from the Swedish firm Peek Traffic. The firm's consultants Lars Nordin and Martin Andersson spent two weeks in the two biggest Lithuanian cities inspecting all intersections controlled by traffic lights.

The two experts told BNS that both Vilnius and Kaunas lack traffic lights for pedestrians, who are us thus under the constant threat of being run over by a car. Besides, they said, most of the Soviet-made traffic control systems in the two cities are completely outdated. Lars and Andersson will use information gathered in Lithuania to draw up a report, which will include proposals on how to reduce the intensity of traffic and, consequently, air pollution in Vilnius and Kaunas by introducing up-to-date traffic control systems. The report will also serve as basis for the Swedish firm's possible contract with Vilnius and Kaunas authorities to supply modern traffic control systems.

ALL ASIAN REFUGEES DEPORTED FROM LITHUANIA FOR TIME BEING

VILNIUS, Aug 03, BNS - Authorities on Thursday deported to Russia about 30 refugees from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, leaving no officially registered Asian asylum seekers in Lithuania for the time being.

Almantas Gavėnas, deputy director of the Migration Department, told BNS that the group included 14 refugees from Bangladesh, who were detained Sunday near the Lithuanian seaside resort of Palanga. The detainees told police that they came to Moscow from Bangladesh by plane and then reached the Belarussian town of Grodno by train. In Belarus, they were met by a smuggler who took them across the Lithuanian border. The refugees claim they each paid USD 1,000 to be taken to Sweden but were let off in a forest near Palanga and told that they were in Germany.

12 refugees from India, caught on the Lithuanian-Polish border on Tuesday, were also expelled from Lithuania.